

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Attached Replacement Sheet 1/1 includes changes to Figs. 3 and 4. Replacement Sheet 1/1 replaces the original sheet that included Figs. 3 and 4. In Fig. 3, a line is added to show that the recognizer 31 provides an updated γ_{k+1} to the calculator 35. In Fig. 4, labels for the three boxes are changed to "HMM A," "HMM B" and "HMM C."

Attachments: Replacement Sheet 1/1

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants have carefully considered this application in connection with the Examiner's Final Action electronically delivered February 26, 2008. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-14 in the application. Previously, the Applicants amended Claims 1-7 and 9-14. In the present response, the Applicants amended Claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 9-14, and canceled Claim 8 without prejudice or disclaimer. New Claims 15-17 are added. Accordingly, Claims 1-7 and 9-17 are currently pending in the application.

Support for the amendment to Claim 1 may be found, *e.g.*, in FIG. 3; Equation 8; ¶¶ [0020], [0030]; and [0031]. Amendments to Claims 6 and 7 are made to improve clarity, and are supported, *e.g.*, in ¶ [0031]. Support for new Claim 15 may be found, *e.g.*, in ¶ [0020]. Support for the amendment to FIG. 3 may be found, *e.g.*, in ¶ [0023]. Support for new Claim 16 and the amendment to FIG. 4 may be found, *e.g.*, in element 33 of FIG. 3. Support for new Claim 17 may be found, *e.g.*, in ¶ [0020] and Equation 5. Remaining claim amendments are made to make the language of the claims consistent with amended Claim 1 and renumbering to correct dependencies. The amendment to ¶ [0020] is supported by the knowledge possessed by those of ordinary skill in the art that a Gaussian distribution used in the context of states of a Hidden Markov Model refers to probabilities and not power. The amendment to Equation 8 in ¶ [0023] adds the letter "t" after " γ_{k+1} ," and is supported, *e.g.*, by Equation 9. No new matter is added by the foregoing amendments. Note that all paragraph numbers refer to those in the published application.

I. Objections

The Examiner objects to Claims 2 and 9 for informalities. The Applicants have amended these claims to correct the informalities. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the objections to Claims 2 and 9 and allow issuance thereof.

II. Rejection of Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In response, the Applicants have amended the pending claim to comply with § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow issuance thereof.

III. Rejection of Claims 1, 2 and 6-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2 and 6-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,129,002 to Tsuboka. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection in view of amended independent Claim 1.

Amended Claim 1 includes the element “recognizing a second speech signal detected after said first speech signal with said HMM employing said updated adjustable bias.” Tsuboka as applied by the Examiner does not teach this element.

Therefore, the Examiner has not shown that Tsuboka anticipates each and every element of amended Claim 1, and the claim is novel in view of Tsuboka. Dependent Claims 2-7 and 9-14 are

also novel over Tsuboka, as they depend from an allowable base claim. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 1, 2 and 6-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and allow issuance thereof.

IV. Rejection of Claims 3, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 3, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuboka in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,662,160 to Chien. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection in view of amended Claim 1.

As discussed above, Tsuboka as applied by the Examiner fails to disclose each element of amended Claim 1. The Examiner has not cited Chien as suggesting those elements of amended Claim 1 that Tsuboka fails to anticipate, as set forth above. Chien has not been cited to teach or suggest elements of Claim 1 but to disclose elements of the above-dependent claims. As such, the cited combination of Tsuboka and Chien does not provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness of Claim 1 and claims dependent therefrom. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of Claims 3, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and allow issuance thereof.

V. New Claims 15-17

New Claims 15-17 are presented for examination herewith. The Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 15-17 are novel and nonobvious over the references of record.

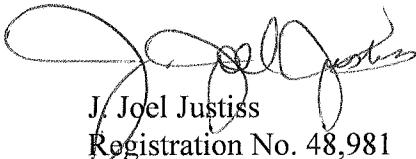
VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-7 and 9-17.

The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, credits or overpayments to Deposit Account 20-0668.

Respectfully submitted,

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